

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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Studded Tires Legal November 1st

The Washington State Patrol would like to remind drivers it is time to get into winter driving mode. November 1st is the first day that studded snow tires are legal to use in Washington State and marks the beginning of the busy winter driving season. Drivers are encouraged to check their tires now to ensure they are prepared before the snow begins to fall.

Motorists should take the time to prepare their vehicles to be driven in inclement weather. Checking coolant levels and windshield washer fluid as well as the condition of the vehicles windshield wipers are very important. Also check to see if your vehicles battery needs to be serviced or replaced. Tread depth and tire pressures should be check and monitored to anticipate tire wear and replacement.

Stocking your vehicle with some basic wither driving equipment including but not limited to a scraper and brush, small shovel, jumper cables, tow strap and a bag of sand or cat litter to use for traction. Other important items are road flares, a blanket, heavy boots, warm clothing and a flashlight with batteries.

Drivers are reminded that speed limits on public roadways are set for ideal road and weather conditions. During bad weather motorists should reduce their speeds, increase their following distance and take extra precautions. Speeds too fast for conditions and following too close are the two leading causes of most collisions during the winter months. Motorists should leave themselves plenty of extra time to travel.

Before traveling this winter citizens can check road and weather conditions by going to the Washington Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) web site: www.wsdot.wa.gov or by calling 511. WSDOT provides real-time traffic information and camera images at major mountain passes and locations throughout the state. Motorist can also tune into the WSDOT highway advisory radio stations across the state to receive important traffic advisories.

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